

Published: Jan. 25, 2011

Updated: 8:33 p.m.

# Lake Forest McDonald's facelift nearing completion

By ERIKA I. RITCHIE

THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

- LAKE FOREST – Wonder when McDonald's on Bridger Road near El Toro Road will reopen?

According to Dwayne Kelly, the project's foreman, the restaurant will be open for business on Feb. 1. – none too soon for many patrons.



McDonald's on Bridger Road in Lake Forest is being completely remodeled.

*PAUL BERSEBACH, THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER*

"People were trying to go into the drive-through even when we had the green (construction) fence up," Kelly said. "Then they'd get irate when they realized the restaurant was closed for remodel."

The Planning Commission approved plans for the remodel in October. The renovation, which is being done by Isabelle Villaseñor, who owns nine other franchises countywide including the McDonald's at the [John Wayne Airport](#), is part of a countywide rebranding.

Work on the 40-year-old building began on Dec. 3. The project involved a 100 percent remodel.

The restaurant will have a new Craftsman-style façade, including brick and stone. The building was also expanded with a new storage location and bigger cash booth. Also, the menu board will be moved to help speed up service through the drive-through.

The parking lot – which dates back to the 1960s – was completely redone and should increase customers' access to the restaurant and make the flow of vehicles in and out of the drive-through more efficient, Kelly said.

The \$900,000 remodel also includes changing the traditional exterior McDonald's colors to earth tones. Also, a sign that was not in compliance with the city's updated sign ordinance was removed.

The roofline has also been changed and will have a cornice and resemble architecture at The Orchard shopping center just up El Toro Road. The McDonald's golden arch logo will be replaced with a new tower feature that will be constructed at the back of the building. The tower will have a small, wall-mounted McDonald's logos.

"We were thrilled when McDonald's came to us and wanted to use the redevelopment guidelines," Mayor Peter Herzog said. "This will create a destination place not only for McDonald's but other businesses in the area."